

MEMPHIS, TENN.
PRESS-SCIMITAR

E - 135,256

FEB 1 1969

Allen W. Dulles

CPYRGHT

Allen W. Dulles' death in Washington Wednesday night closed out the remarkable career of a most unusual man who came from an unusual family.

To readers of recent years, he would have been best known as the rather mystical chief of the Central Intelligence Agency, which he was for eight years. But before that he had been widely known for a number of things: Author, international lawyer, diplomat and (in World War II) a master spy.

In some of the years when he was CIA director, his brother, the late John Foster Dulles, was secretary of state. And a sister, Eleanor Lansing Dulles, for many years was an official of the State Department.

Mr. Dulles distinguished himself as a top man for the Office of Strategic Services (our wartime spy outfit) and thus made himself a logical choice for the CIA. He was deputy chief under President Truman, raised to chief by President Eisenhower, and President Kennedy was so impressed he re-appointed Dulles as his first order of business.

Intelligence on a truly professional scale was new stuff to the American gov-

ernment, attempted only after World War II. And Dulles, after he had retired, said the CIA had managed to catch up with other countries in the quality and scope of its intelligence services.

But the public, and nearly everyone in the government, had to take his word for it. The President may know what the CIA is doing and how well, and perhaps a few others. But so hush-hush is the operation that nobody really knows if even that is so.

The CIA under Dulles' direction was involved in the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of Castro's Cuba—a fact the CIA, among others, probably never will live down. And it suffered a blow when Francis Powers, pilot of the U-2 spy plane, was shot down over Russia.

By its nature, the CIA couldn't tell of its successes, and it didn't tell of its failures. Any estimate of Mr. Dulles' operation of that agency, then, would be guesswork.

But we do know he was a scholar in many fields, that he was a convivial, witty, fascinating personality and that, as a spy chief, he was as non-committal as a log under water and more mysterious than the boys in Mission: Impossible.